

wherein the wound dressing is configured to be positioned on a patient's wound such that the second absorbent layer is between the first absorbent layer and the wound.

30. (Amended) A multi-layer wound dressing comprising:

a first absorbent layer having an absorbency of greater than 300 percent and containing less than 10 percent by weight water before application to a patient; and

a second absorbent layer having an absorbency of less than 50 percent of the absorbency of the first absorbent layer;

wherein the wound dressing is configured to be positioned on a patient such that the second absorbent layer is between the first absorbent layer and the wound.

Please cancel claims 4, 17 and 23-29 without prejudice.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), a version marked up to show changes made to the claims relative to the previous version of the claims is attached.

Remarks

Claims 1-55 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 17, and 23-29 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 30 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found on page 10, lines 13-17, of Applicant's Specification.

§ 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-34 and 36-41 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al (US 5,733,570). The Examiner cites Chen for disclosure of an absorbent dressing with multilayer construction, and finds that multiple layers having different absorbencies would be obvious to those skilled in the art.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 30 to include the limitation that the first absorbent layer has an absorbency greater than 300 percent. Chen discloses absorbent layers having an absorbency of at least 100% to at least 300% while "retaining its structural integrity and transparency." Applicants have amended the present claims to reflect that the absorbency can be increased beyond levels where structural integrity is

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